## Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Claims 1-26. (Canceled).

- 27. (Currently Amended) A depolarizer with three birefringent plates, where the thicknesses of the plates are in [[a]] the ratio of 1:3:9 or a permutation thereof.
- 28. (Currently Amended) A depolarizer with three birefringent plates, where the thicknesses of the plates are in [[a]] the ratio of 4:3:9 or a permutation thereof.
- 29. (Currently Amended) A depolarizer with three birefringent plates, where [[the]] a polarization angle between two of the plates is substantially  $n\frac{\pi}{2} \pm \arccos(-1/3)/4$ , where n is an integer.
- 30. (Currently Amended) A depolarizer with three birefringent plates, where [[the]] a first angle between polarization axes of a first adjacent pair [[two]] of the plates is substantially  $\left(n + \frac{1}{2}\right)\frac{\pi}{2}$ , and a second angle between polarization axes of a second adjacent pair of the plates is substantially  $n\frac{\pi}{2} \pm \arccos(-1/3)/4$ , where n is an integer.

Claims 31-32. (Canceled).

- 33. (Previously Presented) A depolarizer as in claim 27 where the order of the three plates is selected such that at least one retardance frequency vanishes in a first quadrant.
- 34. (Previously Presented) A depolarizer as in claim 28 where the order of the three plates is selected such that at least one retardance frequency vanishes in a first quadrant.

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- 35. (Previously Presented) A depolarizer as in claim 27 where the thicknesses of the three plates are selected such that the plate of intermediate thickness is positioned between the remaining two plates.
- 36. (Previously Presented) A depolarizer as in claim 28 where the thicknesses of the three plates are selected such that the plate of least thickness is positioned between the remaining two plates.
- 37. (Previously Presented) A depolarizer as in claim 27 where each of the birefringent plates has an ordinary axis, each birefringent plate having a substantially different rotation angle of the respective ordinary axis.
- 38. (Previously Presented) A depolarizer as in claim 28 where each of the birefringent plates has an ordinary axis, each birefringent plate having a substantially different rotation angle of the respective ordinary axis.
- 39. (Currently Amended) A depolarizer as in claim 29 where the thicknesses of the plates are in [[a]] the ratio of 1:3:9 or a permutation thereof.
- 40. (Currently Amended) A depolarizer as in claim 30 where the thicknesses of the plates are in [[a]] the ratio of 1:3:9 or a permutation thereof.
- 41. (Currently Amended) A depolarizer as in claim 29 where the thicknesses of the plates are in [[a]] the ratio of 4:3:9 or a permutation thereof.
- 42. (Currently Amended) A depolarizer as in claim 30 where the thicknesses of the plates are in [[a]] the ratio of 4:3:9 or a permutation thereof.
- 43. (New) A depolarizer with three birefringent plates, where the respective thicknesses of the plates are 1.5mm, 1.125mm, and 3.375mm.

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- 44. (New) A depolarizer with three birefringent plates, where the total thicknesses of the plates is approximately 6mm.
- 45. (New) A depolarizer as in claim 44 where the thicknesses of the plates are in the ratio of 1:3:9 or a permutation thereof.
- 46. (New) A depolarizer as in claim 44 where the thicknesses of the plates are in the ratio of 4:3:9 or a permutation thereof.

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